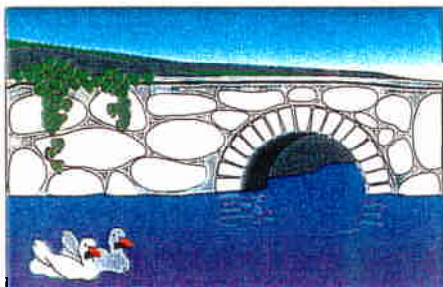


The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Bulletin is prepared by the Storm Water Compliance Review Task Force to aid all projects and operations in maintaining compliance with Storm Water Pollution Prevention regulatory requirements.

Non-Storm Water Discharges...



Construction dewatering can release sediment and other pollutants in the discharge waters. For this reason, construction dewatering activities are regulated under the NPDES permits. Best Management Practices must be implemented to reduce or eliminate sediment from discharge waters. If toxic pollutants are identified in the water, the contractor must implement additional dewatering pollution controls as specified in the contract documents.

Construction dewatering may also fall under regulations set forth by the local Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), particularly if toxic pollutants are present.

The local RWQCB should always be consulted prior to construction dewatering to identify any additional

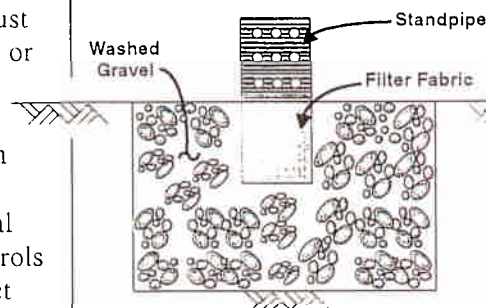
requirements.

Sediment treatment control practices for dewatering operations can include:

- ✓ Sediment Trap (CD 41)
- ✓ Sediment Basin (CD 42)
- ✓ Portable Sediment Tank (CD 7)
- ✓ Filter Box (CD 7)
- ✓ Straw Bale/Silt Fence Pit (CD 7)
- ✓ Sump Pit and Perforated Standpipe wrapped in Filter Fabric (CD 7)

One Example:

The sump pit and perforated standpipe wrapped in filter fabric (CD 7) can be an easy and effective method to treat dewatering discharges.



A typical sump pit with standpipe can be built by excavating a 6-foot-square by 4-foot-deep pit in the floor of the main excavation and filling it with washed gravel. Approximately halfway into the gravel, an 18-inch diameter perforated, corrugated metal standpipe wrapped in filter fabric is installed. Once the gravel is lightly compacted, the suction side of an appropriately-sized pump can be placed in the standpipe.

(Note: Sump pit and standpipe sizes will vary depending on site conditions.)



Desilting Basin

Discharge Monitoring:

Dewatering operations should be checked periodically for continued compliance. Some items to watch for include:

- ✓ Overpumping, which can cause failure of the sediment control device. If noted, install additional devices or limit the volume of water pumped.
- ✓ Cloudy water, which indicates failure of the sediment treatment control.
- ✓ An oily sheen, indicating the presence of petroleum or toxic compounds and the need for further evaluation.
- ✓ Unusual odors, distressed vegetation, or discoloration downstream, indicating the possible presence of toxic compounds or sewerage and a need for further evaluation.
- ✓ Erosion at the discharge areas, indicating a need for erosion control.

Additional information is available in the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks.

Questions or comments may be directed to:

Ken Keaton
Caltrans HQ Environmental Engineering
(916) 653-4947

or

Melinda McCoy
Consultant Team
(714) 567-2588

Construction Dewatering Activities

